

## Claims

- 1 A method of forming an opening in an existing brick wall, comprising inserting at least one expandable element (40) in the course of bricks above the top of the intended opening, and expanding the element or elements.
- 2 A method according to claim 1 wherein a plurality of expandable elements are used.
- 3 A method according to either of claim 2 wherein the elements are inserted into a plurality of courses of bricks.
- 4 A joint expansion tool element for use in forming an opening in an existing brick wall by insertion between an adjacent pair of bricks, the tool comprising a pair of parallel pressure plates (20, 21), a cam element (22) between the plates, means (25) for rotating the cam element, and latching means (24, 27) for latching the cam element.
- 5 A tool according to claim 4 wherein the latching means comprise a ratchet and pawl mechanism (24, 27).
- 6 A tool according to any of claims 3 to 5 including at least one expansion plate (34).
- 7 A tool according to claim 6 wherein the or each expansion plate is removably attachable to a pressure plate.
- 8 A tool according to claim 6 wherein the or each expansion plate is hinged to a pressure plate.
- 9 Any feature of novelty or combination thereof within the meaning of Article 4H of the International Convention (Paris Convention).